

# With The First Nighters



WHILE it is claimed that the theatrical season in "little old New York" never closes, there is always

at this season, a decided let up on the real shows that have held the boards through the long winter months. It may be interesting to Salt Lakers, who, because of their own favorite, Maud Adams, have a fond feeling for J. M. Barrie, to note that the close of the New York season was made in a wonderfully artistic and unusual way, with the presentation of three new plays by that author.

The plays were presented in the Empire theatre under the management of Al Hayman, the proceeds going to the Stage Women's War Relief fund. The theatrical literature of New York was devoted all during the last week of June to the great dramas, all of them one act plays of vital and timely interest. Two of them, "The New Word," and "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals," are spoken of as surpassing anything the great writer has yet accomplished. They partake somewhat of the beauty of his former writings and recall Margaret Ogilvie, A Kiss For Cinderella, Peter Pan, and all the rest of the happy company.

In a beautiful tribute by Clayton Hamilton we find the following:

"There is perhaps a little something that may still be said before we wave a last good-bye to 'The New Word' and 'The Old Lady Shows Her Medals.' It is, indeed, consoling to reflect that this war against war has not been fought in vain, since it has evoked in England the exalted state of spirit that has been expressed by Barrie in these two imperishable plays. It seems as if the soul of this great artist had been hung up as an aeolian harp and stricken by all the winds of the war into the utterance of music 'whose very sweetness yieldeth proof that it was born for immortality.'"

"The same miracle, ere many months, may be visited upon America; and we, who sit secure beyond the seas, and ply our pretty little trade of setting words together, may soon be called upon to fight like men, and to stand up and speak like men, for once at least, before we die. God grant that, if the final hour comes, we may go out with a laughing song upon our lips and may leave behind us some lovely little haunting echo, like the music of harps hung high in the air."

## PANTAGES

THE polar bears at Pantages comprise an unusual midsummer attraction. Aside from the remarkable feats which they perform at the nod

and beck of their trainer, the fearless Abner, they seem to give the laugh to those human beings who are grumbling about the hot weather. Certainly, if these natives of the far away frigid regions can survive the heat of a summer sun in this climate, those of us who are thoroughly acclimated ought to be able to get along without becoming chronic complainers.

The balance of the bill is good. Dan Roach and James McCurdy of "Way Down East" fame furnish a delightful touch of old-fashioned comedy and rural humor in their sketch, "A Touch of Nature." Their duet is funny beyond description; one must hear and see them to get the real flavor of their fun making.

George W. Barrier and company appear to good advantage in a problem playlet entitled, "The Way Out." The plot hinges on the eternal triangle and in certain parts the play is truly dramatic. Of an opposite vein is "The Girl From Amsterdam," a rollicking musical comedy well up to the vaudeville standard. The act is well staged the singing and dancing is good, and Laura Baer is particularly pleasing with her wonderful contralto voice.

The Wilton sisters demonstrate extraordinary versatility. They sing well, dance better and play the violin and piano in a most pleasing manner. In addition to their artistic talents, they have a personality that would save them on any stage, even though their work otherwise failed to come up to requirements. The Mutual Weekly movies show some timely war pictures that are well worth seeing.

## "THE LITTLE AMERICAN"

THE feature of the week in local movie circles is the patriotic picture at the Paramount Express showing Mary Pickford in "The Little American." This picture is a stirring story dealing with the war situation, but it is more than a story—it is a spectacular portrayal of existing conditions. The film is well worth seeing, even from an educational standpoint and then, of course, it is always refreshing to see the incomparable Mary Pickford.

The story starts in America, where the heroine (Mary Pickford) is beloved by a Frenchman and a German, both residing in the United States. War breaks out, and both men are called to the colors, while The Little American travels to Europe to encounter Prussian "kultur" in the form of a torpedo and some thrilling experiences until rescued by a British patrol boat. In France she meets with further adventures and finally she and the German officer she loves are stood against a wall to face a firing squad, after the lieutenant has renounced his

country. The timely arrival of a couple of shells is a factor in sending the couple back to America to live happy ever after.

## SALT LAKE THEATRE

"FLORA Bella," queen of the season's musical comedy offerings, will be the attraction at the Salt Lake theatre next Thursday, Friday and Saturday with Saturday matinee. John Cort sends the attraction here with a specially brilliant cast and long record run at the Casino theatre, New York. Charming music, bright lines,



LILY LEONHARD ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCIPALS IN THE BIG JOYOUS MUSICAL FUREUR "FLORA BELLA", DIRECT FROM THE CASINO THEATRE, NEW YORK COMING TO THE SALT LAKE THEATRE.

an original book and love that's aglow; clever principals, lively dancing and Urban settings—for what more could one ask?

The story of "Flora Bella" concerns the young Princess Manja Demidoff, who leads a Quakerish existence in the country cultivating the homespun virtues and eschewing the follies of her secret past as a famous dancing artist under the monotony of a quiet life. Then comes his discovery of a photograph of a princess as a dancer which leads to the declaration that it is "Flora Bella," a twin sister. The prince is fascinated by the picture and quietly steals away to meet his supposed sister-in-law at the "Sign of the Golden Calf." The princess at the

same time is induced to return to the home of her former triumphs, just for one night, that she may help place the one time manager in his position. Nicholas makes violent love to the dancer who continues the character Flora Bella and the demure Manja are just dual personalities and boredom is replaced by martial passion.

The music is by Charles Cuvillier and Milton Schwarzwald and rises to the heights of genuine musical comedy and includes a sensuous waltz duet that is tremendously popular. The book by Felix Doermann, revised and adapted by Cosmo Hamilton and Dorothy Donnelly, is really witty, as are the lyrics by Percy Waxman. Some of the popular song hits are "Good-Day, Good-Night," "It Is Very Hard to Bring Up Father," "Cat and Mouse," "Young Men Take a Tip From Me," "Love Is a Dance," "Flora Bella," "You're the Girl," "Give Me All of You," "Adam," and "Creep, Creep the World's Asleep."

Practically the original cast and chorus will be seen here, which include such principals as Eleanor Henry, Lily Leonhard, Guy J. Sampson, Irving Brooks, Robert O'Connor, Josephine Kirkwood, Mortimer H. Weldon, Kate Stout, Adolph Link, Gilbert Clayton, the famous dancing team of Grant and Wing and a corps of trained musicians that have played the music since its Metropolitan premiere.

## THE LIBERTY

FOR those who are sweltering during the hot evenings, the Liberty offers a cool retreat where one can escape from the depressing temperature and enjoy a few hours' comfort in connection with the entertainment afforded.

The press agent promises an exceptional bill this week, featuring the Four American Patrollers, musicians who are worth hearing. Drawee, Hambo and Frisco are said to create a riot of laughter with their offering, "Fun at the Hottentot Hotel."

Other numbers on the bill include the Reynolds, a sprightly pair of dancers, Polard and "His Little Bull," and Bob and Beth Stanley, who style themselves the Klassy, Klever, Komic Kouple. Some alliteration that. The Lonesome Luke comic movies can always be depended upon to furnish fun, no matter who else fails.

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal (instructing awkward squad in rifle practice)—"I told you to take a fine sight, you dub; don't you know what a fine sight is?"

Rookie—"Sure, a boat full of corporals sinking."—Judge.